

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF BIUE: A QUICK LOOK BACK AND A FAST LOOK FORWARD

by Karen Evans & Marsha Miller



A LITTLE HISTORY

In 1987, Indiana University – Bloomington librarians Emily Okada and Mary Popp had an idea, called together other academic librarians, and the Bibliographic Instruction/User Education (BIUE) of the Indiana Library Federation (ILF) was born. Initially, BIUE was created to:

- Increase awareness of user education as an essential library service and play an active role in the development of Indiana Library Federation policies promoting user education;
- Provide a forum for broad discussion of user education issues within Indiana Libraries;
- Provide opportunities in which library workers from all types of libraries and from throughout the state of Indiana can share user education ideas, materials, and solutions; and
- Help practitioners develop, improve and promote user education by providing information, skills, and tools.

Although the majority of members in BIUE are academic librarians, any librarian involved with, or interested in, bibliographic instruction is encouraged to apply and become active in the group. Several public librarians and a scattering of school media specialists, and even a special librarian or two have been members

over the years. Membership has usually been between sixty and seventy members; and the steering committee is always looking for volunteers.

BIUE has an active history of presenting programs at the annual ILF conferences. Past programs have included experiential learning and libraries; teaching to Generation Y; how public libraries can help academic students, and exploiting Google for classroom use. Looking back to the early days of the Internet and how it impacted library instruction, one of the earlier achievements was a 1993 pre-conference entitled, *Is Your Node Clogged?* with national speaker, Jean Armour Polly. This was a 'cutting edge' presentation on 'the wonders of the Internet', covering e-mail, telnet, ftp, etc. It was so well-received that, the following year, another pre-conference was held, entitled *The Internet in Indiana Now*, co-sponsored by BIUE and the Indiana Academic Library Association, which proved that the Internet was very much alive and thriving in Indiana. That topic was re-visited eight years later, with a panel discussion on *The State of Information Literacy in Indiana*, in 2002. Another successful cooperative effort was a 2000 pre-conference, co-sponsored with the Association for Indiana Media Educators, highlighting statewide efforts to promote and develop information literacy for all Indiana citizens. The group has also sponsored poster sessions at several ILF conferences. At the most recent ILF conference, BIUE was represented by two excellent programs, *Learners at the Gate*, on how public libraries meet the needs of all types of learners, and an intriguing presentation, *Googlewhacking and Hacking: exploiting Google in the instruction classroom* (see articles, this issue).



Emily Okada, BIUE Founding Member



BIUE Founding Member Emily Okada at 2003 ILF Convention

THE FUTURE OF BIUE

Our future is looking bright. The current steering committee has a lot of plans—and is looking for the time to implement the plans. We want to update the BIUE website; adding a complete list of past programs presented at ILF. We also want to add a place to list the favorite websites of instruction librarians. So, if you have a great website involving instruction information or a website you show during instruction classes to illustrate a point; please think about sending the website and a paragraph or so about the site to the chair Karen Evans at kevans4@isugw.indstate.edu

The steering committee is also thinking ahead to the conference next year. We need your ideas for presentations at the Fall 2007 ILF conference. Do you have a great instruction session on evaluating the Internet; have you found a way to curb the restless student (who does not believe he/she needs a class on finding info in the library)? If so, think about creating a presentation and sharing the information with your colleagues.

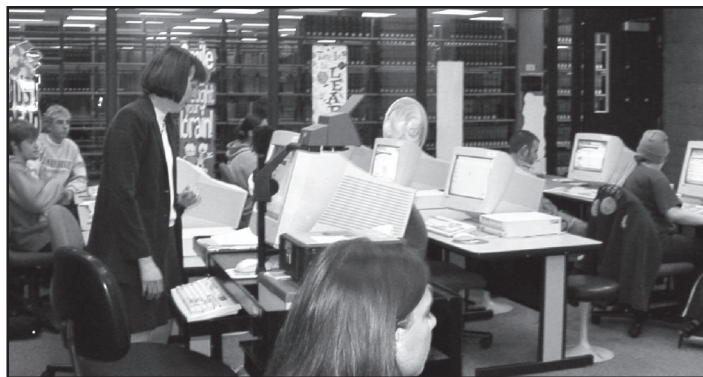
NEWSLETTER

Are you interested in writing a short article for the soon-to-be-reconstituted electronic newsletter? Have you created a page of links other instruction librarians would find useful? Send the link to BIUE. We are looking for articles on all varieties of bibliographic instruction from academic to public to school or special librarians.

How would you feel about the e-newsletter branching out into somewhat uncharted waters for BIUE? The e-newsletter is for you; so if you would like to see



ISU Instruction Librarians, 2003
back row, left to right: Rob French, David Kaunelis, Steve Hardin
front row, left to right: Alberta Comer, Elizabeth Lorenzen, Marsha Miller



Indiana Libraries editor, Alberta Comer, in ISU Instruction Lab, 2003

articles on interviewing or updating resumes or creating a portfolio for instruction librarians, let us know. Would you like to see interviews with instruction librarians to learn how they cope with the job demands of too little time and money and too much to do? The website and newsletter are for the instruction librarians of Indiana, so let us know what you want.

PHOTO ARCHIVE

BIUE would like to gather photographs of Indiana librarians in instructional settings. You can send your digital photos to Karen Evans. If you have never thought about it, take pictures of your instructional classrooms and labs, with or without students. Have someone take some pictures of you 'in action', at the computer console, in front of your Smartboard, working one-on-one with students. Be sure to include complete names of anyone in the photos, a date, and a brief caption explaining who is in the photo and what they are doing. See above photo example. If you have a formalized group of instruction librarians, get them together and take some snaps. Be creative. We are including one concept that we played with at Indiana State University a while ago, for inspiration.

COMMUNICATING WITH BIUE

- The steering committee maintains a web site at <http://www.indiana.edu/~libnlrn/biue/index.shtml>
- An electronic discussion group for BIUE members started in 2002. Listowner: Marsha Miller; host: Indiana State University.
- Ideas, questions about BIUE? Contact Karen Evans, chair of BIUE at kevans4@isugw.indstate.edu